

Transition Year 2022/2023

St. Mac Dara's Community College



Mission Statement:



Within our transition year programme we aspire to build on the existing foundations of our college in order to **promote personal and social awareness and competence**. We aim to aid the development of **existing skills**, the acquisition of **new skills** and allow students to **grow and mature** in a **safe environment** filled with **variety and opportunity**.

Aims:



- To give students the opportunity to **discover and develop** their own individual gifts.
- To become **more independent**.
- To **encourage responsibility and maturity**.
- To create **articulate young men and women, assertive and self-confident**.
- To **nurture the caring, generous side** of our students.
- To encourage **team-work**.
- To understand their own **educational, social and personal needs**.
- To **gain competent coping strategies**.
- To provide a **balance between the academic and non academic subjects**.
- To cater for the needs of individual students, ensuring a smooth transition to 5th year.

Our Programme:



- **Core Subjects:** English, Irish, Maths & a Language.
- **Other Subjects:**
 - Politics & Society
 - Classical Studies
 - Future Leaders (GAA)
 - Environmental Social Studies
 - Agricultural Science
 - World of Science
 - Photography
 - Yoga
 - Computer Studies
 - Chinese
 - Food Studies
 - Mini Company
 - Art
 - Community Care
 - Development Education
 - Music
 - RSE
 - Life Skills

Key Areas: Community Care



- Students participate in the “Fast Friends” programme with Cheeverstown House once a week.
- Students make new friends and learn to communicate and integrate with people in our wider community.
- Training/Education is provided before the classes begin.
- Students participate in various different events with their new friends throughout the year.
- Each year our students state that this is the most worthwhile aspect of the TY course.

Key Areas: Work Experience



Work Experience will take place on Wednesdays.

Benefits:

- Students won't miss as much school time.
- Allows us to include more subjects on the programme.
- Prevents “early weekend” mentality, as work experience used to be on Fridays.
- Charity events generally take place on Fridays.

Three blocks:

- Sept – Dec
- Jan – Mar
- Mar – May

Students must source their own Work Experience and must have their first block organised before returning in September.

*Block weeks are encouraged and lotteries will be entered to win places on sought-after courses.

Students must assume the working day of their employer

Key Areas: Charity Work



Projects this year:

- GOAL €937.91
- Fundraising for Cheeverstown €415.65
- Barnardos Christmas Jumper Day - €415.65

Total raised so far: **€1769.21**

*Extra volunteering is encouraged. Fundraising this year has been affected by COVID restrictions (Carol singing/bag packing, etc.)

Key Areas: Other Projects

- TY Magazine with Linda Daly
- Guest speaker, Eamon Sharkey, from GOAL
- GOAL Jersey Day
- AWARE Positive Mental Health Course with Kevin McManamon
- Guest speaker, Cameron Elliot, Plan Africa
- Bonding Trip – The Avon Rí , Blessington
- IPad training
- Cycle Against Suicide committee
- Wellbeing committee
- Covid officers
- TY prefects
- Subsounds with South Dublin CC



Key Areas: Other Projects:



- SHINE Positive Mindset course
- NUI Open Days
- European Youth Parliament
- Comhairle Na nOg
- Seamus Heaney Exhibit
- 2 Photography trips
- Ag Science trip to Airfield
- School Website committee
- GAISCE
- ICDL
- Yoga/Mindfulness
- AIB Future Sparks
- Glasnevin Cemetery and Botanic gardens history trip
- RCSI Gender Bias in the Medical profession talk
- Maths talk – Do statisticians have superpowers?
- Bulbs, not bonfires
- RKD architecture and design course
- St. Judes coaching (Maeve McDaid)
- Linguascope
- Italian class UCC trip
- TY comedy gig in The Laughter Lounge

Key Areas: Reflection



- **Reviews** are carried out regularly with all stakeholders. Our students, teachers and indeed parents.
- **Reflection** takes place regularly in the form of a diary and with memory/goal slips.
- **Teacher/student Mentor programme:**
 - Students link in with a teacher to discuss areas such as:
 - Personal development
 - Social skills
 - Academic progress
 - Goal setting
 - Friendships
 - Relationships

Benefits of Transition Year:



- Develops **confidence** and **independence**.
- Allows students the opportunity to **experience the world of work**.
- Promotes **decision making** including **career paths**.
- Develops **social interaction** with peers and people from all walks of life.
- Allows students to **build on their strengths and talents**.
- Encourages students to **take more responsibility** and to appreciate things more.
- **Maturation**.

Assessment & Evaluation:



Teachers:

- Students get a **report** at Christmas outlining results of exams, projects or continuous assessment undertaken throughout the first terms.
- Students undertake an **online portfolio** of work to be completed by a certain deadline. This counts towards their overall grade.
- Teachers complete **evaluations** for each student depending on their level of participation, attendance, punctuality and behaviour in their respective classes.
- Completed certificates will be presented at the graduation ceremony.

Employers:

- Complete **evaluation sheets** for the student upon finishing a placement.

Parents:

- **Monitor journals** closely for information on trips and projects. There is always work to be completed. **Sign journal** on a weekly basis.

Key Information:



- **Cost:**
 - **€160.00** over and above normal F.E.F (covers trips, buses, subsidies, guest speakers).
 - **€100.00** for ICDL.
 - Two night bonding trip. (Dates and costs to be confirmed)
- **Lottery system for selection.**
- Students will receive forms in the next few weeks or they can come and speak to me, Ms. Galligan.(marygalligan@stmacdaras.ie)
- 48 students have access to the programme.
- Transition Year is a very worthwhile and positive year **if** students are willing to participate actively, willing to contribute and willing to take responsibility for their own involvement.
- Thank you for your kind attention.